

EPA Gold King Mine Incident VIP/Media Site Visit Plan

- Safety is our number one consideration at the mine site. The Gold King Mine site is an active operation with heavy equipment and other construction site hazards.
- Site operations will take priority; be aware that visitations may not be allowed due to operational constraints or weather conditions. In general, if planned operations at the mine would need to cease during the visit then the request will not be approved by EPA.
- EPA is NOT conducting general tours at the mining site. Site visits are limited to visitors with direct responsibilities related to the response activities or on-going investigations into the incident.
- ALL visitors must receive personal protective equipment (PPE), in-person safety briefing and sign the 'Gold King Mine Visitor' sheet prior to work zone entry.
- Safety briefings are to be provided by designated Incident Management Team (IMT) Safety Officers, EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSC), or United States Coast Guard (USCG) Strike Team contract oversight personnel only.
- Based on location of visit, visitors are required to wear appropriate PPE at all times. (e.g. eye protection, hard hat, and closed toe shoes and high visibility vests)
- **Visitors must be 18 years or older and accompanied by EPA or designee at all times during their visit.**
- All requests for visitation (for all work zones) must be submitted in writing at least **48 hrs prior** to press@epa.gov, Monday through Friday.
- Media Access is provided for the sole purpose of capturing B-roll/footage and does not include on-the-record interviews with mine site personnel. EPA officials are available for on-the-record telephone interviews regarding the response activities.
- Use of a media pool is requested for access to Gold King Mine for the purpose of capturing B-roll/footage, if the site is deemed accessible in the Fall. No more than three representatives per site visit, to be determined and coordinated by media outlets. Names to be provided with credentials to PIO at time of visit.
- In the event of severe weather or if you see a lightening flash and hear thunder within 30 seconds of each other, please note that site visits will be cancelled and/or safe refuge should be sought. Personnel must wait 30 minutes after the last episode of thunder/lightening prior to re-deploying to the work zone.
- Prepare in advance and report to appropriate location (as instructed) with necessary rain gear, jackets, sunblock, food/water and medications.

Additional details related to site safety:

- While escorting visitors, Site Safety personnel or OSCs must maintain: Use of spotters, communications, and eye contact with heavy machine operators.
- UTV operators are required to have valid driver's license and training certification by USCG-Strike Team (or designated) personnel prior to operating.
- UTV drivers will operate within the safety parameters set forth in the Colorado IAP 208/215A (e.g. seat belts, speed limits, PPE, etc.).